

Iowa Council on Homelessness
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2005

Voting Members Present:

Allan Axeen – HACAP	Steffani Hicok – Cedar Valley Friends of the
Virginia Beane – Attorney General’s Office	Family
Christine Canganelli – Shelter House	Doug Keast – Dept of Workforce Development
Amy Correia – Iowa Coalition against Domestic	Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Violence	Ray Morley – Department of Education
Dennis Dietz – Iowa Finance Authority	Janell Staats – MATURA Action Corporation
Kelli Foltz – Department of Veteran Affairs	Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Diane Foss – Dept. of Economic Development	Lila P.M. Starr – Department of Human Services
Mario Hayslett – Criminal Justice Ministries	Donald Tyne – Linn County Veteran’s Affairs
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services	Dean Wright – Drake University

Voting Members Absent:

Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights	Gordon Miller – Department of Public Safety
Anne Brown – Department of Corrections	Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health	Kate Ridge – John Lewis Coffee Shop
Bill Holvoet – Community Action of SE Iowa	Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action
Anne Kinzel – Selzer & Company	Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs
Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing	
& Homeless	

Others Present:

Krista Bowersox – U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban	Kelly Luschen – Council on Sexual Assault &
Development	Domestic Violence
Joan Christensen – Broadlawns Medical Center	Sherry McDonald – Project Concern
Bob Fisher – Bob’s Sleepout	Melissa Newell – Primary Healthcare
Deb Forester – Hillcrest Family Services	Matt Otte – Community Mental Health PATH
Eddie Frazier – Primary Healthcare	Program
Barry Gallagher – Vera French Mental Health Center	Tim Shanahan – Human Services Planning
Linda Grathwohl – Iowa Legal Aid	Alliance
Erin Haafke – Department of Elder Affairs	Carrie Slagle – Waypoint Madge Phillips Center
Erica Haven – Project Concern	Tiffany Smith – Iowa Homeless Youth Centers
Steve Jacobs – Project Concern	Paul Stanfield – Home Connection
Cheryl Kimball – Youth & Shelter Services	Mike Wood – Mental Health Association of
Sister Carolyn Kowalski – Project Concern	Siouxland
Charlie Leist – Department of Human Services	Tom Winn - YMCA
Joe Leto -	

Iowa Finance Authority Staff:

Lyle Schwery – Homeless Programs Coordinator	Karen Winchester – Administrative Assistant
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Call to Order & Introduction

Chairman Wright called the September 16, 2005 meeting of the Iowa Council for Homelessness to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

Introductions were made by those present at the host site and at the remote ICN locations.

ICN Etiquette Overview

Mr. Schwery stressed the importance of those arriving late to introduce themselves to receive credit for attending the meeting. He also requested those with cell phones or pagers to turn them off. Mr. Schwery asked members to wait for recognition from the secretary/acting chair before speaking and to introduce themselves once they have been acknowledged.

Approvals

September 16, 2005 Agenda

Chairman Wright introduced the agenda for the September 16, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Mario Hayslett, seconded by Virginia Beane, the Council unanimously approved the September 16, 2005 Council meeting agenda.

July 22, 2005 Minutes

Chairman Wright introduced the minutes for the July 22, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Lila Starr, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved the July 22, 2005 Council meeting minutes.

Executive Committee Report

Dean Wright, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported the Committee met and does not have any new information to report.

Nominating Committee Report

Lila Starr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the Committee has not been able to meet and will report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Lila Starr, seconded by Mario Hayslett, the Council unanimously approved to table the motion to elect Mike Wood to the Council to represent persons with prior experience of homelessness that was submitted in the in the May 20, 2005 meeting to the next Council meeting on November 18, 2005.

Continuum of Care Committee Report

Lyle Schwery reported the Committee met to review the membership of this committee. Mr. Schwery asked members of this committee to confirm their membership with him and asked anyone wanting to join this committee to contact him. The 2006 membership list will be ready to present to the Council at the next meeting. Amy Knutsen will continue to chair this committee through the end of the year at which time she would like to step down from chairperson and continue as a member.

The committee will meet with all of the current CoC grantees on the afternoon of October 13, 2005 via ICN to discuss major issues and challenges that will be faced in 2006.

The committee would like to request a block of time at the next Council meeting to present these new challenges concerning changes in federal regulations and the US Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements.

Policy and Public Awareness Committee Report

Christine Canganelli, Chair of the Policy and Public Awareness Committee, reported the Committee met to discuss several items. The Committee reviewed the current Strategic Plan and recommends the Executive Committee to go forward with this Plan as it is currently laid out. The Committee will then concentrate on creating a 10-year Plan to End Homelessness. Notices will eventually be sent out around the state to interested parties, local homeless coordinating Boards, and the other Continuum's of Care within the State of Iowa to come together on a designated day for strategic planning.

Ms. Canganelli has only received two legislative recommendations from other members of the Council which reiterate issues from the 2004 legislative proposal. The Committee would like to update the 2004 legislative proposal to eventually be forwarded to the governor.

Ms. Canganelli reported that Amy Correia and herself have started working on the newsletter and are looking for recommendations and suggestions from other members. They are specifically looking for any testimonials, reports or stories from local CoCs or local homeless coordinating boards concerning a local community event concerning homelessness.

Ms. Starr would like to ask for the Governor's support on increasing federal PATH funding in the Council's legislative proposal.

Research and Analysis Committee Report

Al Axeen, Chair of the Research and Analysis Committee, reported the Committee met to discuss several topics. Lyle Schwery reported to the Council that there should be a finished report in October from IPP concerning the homeless count survey. Ray Morley reported there has been a delay in receiving information from Project Easier which may delay the final report.

Diane Foss suggested doing some extensive public relations work prior to the actual Point in Time Study.

Ray Morley discussed ILO – Iowa Learning Online. This is an effort in Iowa to ensure local children have access to distance learning.

Point in Time Committee Report

Lyle Schwery reported to the Council that the revised forms for the 2006 Point in Time Study are on the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) website. Since this Committee was an ad hoc committee, its purpose has been met and will no longer exist. Ann Hearn wanted to remind people that training will be provided the week before January 25, 2006.

HMIS Committee Report

A report was not available for the HMIS Committee Report.

Reports & Activities

Lyle Schwery informed the Council that the Homeless Assistance Program Workshop will be held the morning of October 13, 2005 via ICN. Forms and documents will be posted on the IFA website for this workshop.

Mr. Schwery informed the Council on several efforts the State of Iowa is doing to help Hurricane Katrina victims. IFA has sponsored a website to help victims find housing in Iowa.

Old Business

Diane Foss would like to show the presentation of “Homelessness Must Surely End” to legislators before the upcoming session. She does not believe it is necessary to add Iowa information to the piece. Ray Morley explained the distribution of this presentation has been delayed due to Hurricane Katrina.

Lila Starr explained to the Council that Iowa is putting together a crisis counseling program application to serve the people who come to Iowa from disaster stricken states. She asked for any volunteers who would be interested in becoming an outreach worker for this program to contact her as soon as possible. Crisis counselors will deal with mental health issues but are not expected to have professional training in this area.

Linda Grathwohl with Iowa Legal Aid handed out a brochure with information for Iowa Lawyers for Disaster Relief for victims needing legal help.

It was announced that the Elder Rights Conference is being held November 7-8, 2005 at Hotel Fort Des Moines.

Lila Starr reported that the annual Mental Health Block Grant Application has been completed and is available for review.

Ray Morley asked members to contact him again if you had previously volunteered to assist the Department of Education in reviewing applications.

New Business

Lyle Schwery introduced Bob Fisher with Bob’s Sleepout from the Minneapolis area. Mr. Fisher was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year by the National Governor’s Council at this year’s annual conference.

Mr. Fisher explained that he also calls his organization Bob’s Shoe Repair, where he saves souls and does a little healing. The basis of his fundraising, Bob’s Sleepout, is to camp out in the winter to raise money to help feed homeless families around the holidays. His initial goal was to raise about \$7,000 to feed about 100 families which would take care of the homeless population in his community. He reached his goal in a couple of weeks and brought his donation to Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners (IOCP). He learned that although a hot holiday meal is very much appreciated it does not really help a family of four that lives out of their car.

Workers at IOCP asked Bob to learn more about the need for affordable housing for the homeless and to raise the community’s awareness of his findings. He learned that in the more affluent communities where he was from did contain homeless people; they were just ‘invisible’. These homeless people were able to easily blend into the crowd.

Last year, it took Bob 37 cold nights to reach his goal, 1.25 million dollars. In the last 4 years, he has slept out about 7 months raising a cumulative of 4 million dollars. Bob enjoys raising people’s awareness and getting them involved. There is more information on Bob’s Sleepout on his website: www.bobssleepout.com or on the Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners website: www.iocp.org.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Schwery reminded the Board of the next Council meeting date, Friday, November 18, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: On a motion by Mario Hayslett, seconded by Nicki Stajcar, the Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Council meeting at 11:25 am.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2005,

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Karen Winchester, Administrative Assistant
Iowa Finance Authority

Doug Keast, Secretary
Iowa Council on Homelessness